SOME REMARKS, AL VUELO, ON TINGITID NAMES.

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The highly useful and informing paper by Dr. C. J. Drake, on The North American Tingitidae described by Stål,[1] immediately poses two questions, one of which, as to the accuracy of his figures, he presumably has answered finally. He assures us of the competency of the artist; and he is so certain of it that he accepts Madam Ekblom's drawings as final and true representations of the species, from which to draw definite decisions. The other question disposed of is the one his paper purports to answer definitely—namely, the identity of the forms he discusses. But so far as one may form an idea from the reproductions of the drawings, two, at least, of the species still seem to be in an unsettled state and far from a final adjustment. And what this final adjustment may appear to be, with due weight attached to the drawings and what they reveal, is here set forth.

Based on the drawings, Dr. Drake synonymizes Stål's three species of *Melanorhopala* under the one name *clavata*. The identity of *lurida* with this species is unquestionable. Stål's own descriptions show that the differences between these two are unexistent, except for the difference in the clavation of the antennae. But in *M. uniformis* he makes the statement that antennal segment III is shorter than in the other two and that the narrow foliaceous margin of the prothorax is largely reflexed and touches the surface of the pronotum.

We now know that the difference between the antennae of *clavata* and *lurida* is sexual, but the differences between *uniformis* and the two former are more likely to be of a specific character. So much for the content of Stål's descriptions, so terse as to structure and so diffuse as to color.

The figures in Dr. Drake's paper at once reveal other and additional differences which to me seem specific—namely, the pronotal carinae and the membranal areoles, as well as the antennal segments. The figures of *Melanorhopala* are evidently to the same scale, × 10, so we can justly make comparisons of dimensions between them. Thus, we find that the antennal segments are in different proportions in two figures, in *a* (*clavata* type) (in their order) 4 : 2 : 30 : 3.6, in *c* (*uniformis* type), 2½ : 1½ : 28 : 4. The pronotal carinae in *a* are subparallel; in *c* they converge curvedly anteriorly. The pronotum in *a* is much shorter and narrower than in *c* (both macropterous) and the apex less acute;

[1] 1926—Ann. Carn. Mus. XVI: No. 3–4; 375–380, pl. XXXIV.

the areoles are larger in *a* than in *c,* in which they seem rounded and puncture-like. The wings are rounded in *a* and subacuminate in *c, although both are clearly macropterous;* the membranal reticulation is coarser in *c* than in *a.* And finally, there is a noticeably large areole, much larger than any of the others, in *c* near the apex of the marginal row of cells on the outer margin of the membrane; in *a* there is no such noticeably large cell in the membrane. Other differences will be noted on a careful examination of the figure, such as the comparative sizes of the heads, the form and size of the pronotum, etc. In the ordinary course of descriptions, this aggregate of differential characters would seem to be sufficient to delimit that technical concept we are pleased to denominate a species and in consequence it does not appear from the evidence presented that *Melanorhopala uniformis* Stål must be "spurlos versenkt" into the invidious oblivion of synonymy, but rather retained as a distinct species, whatever may be the evidential doom of *M. lurida.*

In *Acalypta thomsonii* another situation obtains. The antennae are not shown in the figure, being missing in the type, hence it is not possible to check them up with the description. But the carinae of the thorax may be. Now, Stål states: "Pronotum tricarinatum, etc., . . . which forms a determinate picture. But in the figure (Fig. d, pl. XXXIV) the lateral carinae are so effaced as to be unseen, which difference Dr. Drake notes in his comments (*op. c.,* p. 377); and he also draws attention to the differently shaped paranota in the form from the Northeastern United States we have called *thomsonii;* and to its having two spines in the head. To this it may be added (from specimens) that the elytral reticulations are small, circular and not angular in outline; the lateral carinae are one-third the length of the middle, distinct but very much lower, straight and converging anteriorly.

This, of course, leaves our Northern States species without a name; and acordingly, we may know the species diagnosed by me in this BULLETIN, Vol. XIX, p. 50, as

Acalypta **madelinae**. Type: Brachypterous ♂, Sherborn, Mass., 7. x .23; paratype (and allotype), brachypterous ♀, Framingham, Mass., 13. x .23; paratype ♀, same date; all taken by Mr. C. A. Frost by sifting at the base of alders in a swamp. These are the three specimens recorded by me in this BULLETIN, Vol. XIX, p. 50.

How fortunate it is that this species has received so little attention! Wherefore, we have no complicated maze of synonymy to waste time in penetrating; nor lengthened excursi to sift for the proverbial grain of wheat.